

NOTICE OF PUBLIC WORKSHOP

August, 2002

The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Water Quality Planning, has scheduled three public workshops to present proposed revisions to the Nevada state water quality standards and to discuss the Draft Nevada's 2002 303(d) Impaired Waters List.

The proposed revisions to the water quality regulations contained in Nevada Administrative Code 445A.119 through 445A.225 are as follows:

- Updating NAC 445A.119 which summarizes water quality criteria guidelines for various beneficial uses. Proposed revisions include: 1) updating pH, chloride, and nitrite criteria; and 2) including criteria for total ammonia and *E. coli* bacteria.
- Revising the existing bacterial water quality criteria for various waterbodies throughout the state. The proposed bacterial criteria revisions are based upon recommendations for protecting recreators from contracting gastrointestinal illness during water-contact and non-contact recreational activities. This proposal involves incorporating U. S. Environmental Protection Agency recommended bacterial water quality criteria for *E. coli* into the regulations for the following designated waterbodies: Carson River system, Walker River system, Chiatovich Creek, Indian Creek, Leidy Creek, Virgin River, Beaver Dam Wash, Snake Creek, Truckee River system, Colorado River system, Humboldt River system, Muddy River, Meadow Valley Wash, and Snake River system.
- Revising the existing pH criteria for various waterbodies throughout the state. The proposed revisions are based upon U. S. Environmental Protection Agency recommendations for the protection of aquatic life. This proposal involves replacing existing pH criteria for the following designated waterbodies: Carson River at Lahontan Dam, Chiatovich Creek, Indian Creek, Leidy Creek, Virgin River, Beaver Dam Wash, Snake Creek, Colorado River, Muddy River, and Meadow Valley Wash.
- Replacing the un-ionized ammonia standards with total ammonia criteria for various waterbodies throughout the state. The proposed criteria are based upon U. S. Environmental Protection Agency recommendations for the protection of aquatic life. Proposed revisions involves replacing existing ammonia criteria for the following designated waterbodies: Carson River system, Walker River system, Chiatovich Creek, Indian Creek, Leidy Creek, Virgin River, Beaver Dam Wash, Snake Creek, Truckee River system, Colorado River system, Humboldt River system, Muddy River, Meadow Valley Wash, and Snake River Basin system.

Pursuant to the Clean Water Act Section 303(d), the State of Nevada is required to develop a list of impaired waterbodies that need additional work beyond existing controls to achieve or maintain water quality standards. The additional work includes the establishment of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs). The 303(d) List is the basis for targeting waterbodies for watershed-based solutions and the TMDL process provides the analytical framework to develop solutions. The Draft Nevada's 2002 303(d) Impaired Waters List has been prepared and is available for review and public comment. The methodology and rationale for developing the List and the proposed tentative TMDL prioritization schedule will be discussed.

The scheduled workshops will be held at the following locations at the dates and times indicated:

Tuesday, August 27, 2002
Nevada Division of
Environmental Protection
123 W. Nye Lane
Carson City, Nevada
Conference Room 217
6:00 to 8:00 pm

Thursday, August 29, 2002
Elko Convention Center
700 Moren Way
Elko, Nevada 89801
6:00 to 8:00 pm

Wednesday, September 4, 2002
Las Vegas Water District
1001 South Valley View
Las Vegas, Nevada 89107
Mead Conference Room
6:00 to 8:00 pm

The purpose of the workshops is to solicit public comments on the proposed revisions to the Nevada water quality standards and the Draft 2002 303(d) Impaired Waters List. No items will be voted on and no actions will be taken.

The fact sheets and draft rationale documents which provide more detailed information on the proposed revisions to the water quality standards will be available at the time of the workshops, or may be obtained by contacting the Bureau of Water Quality Planning at the address given below. The Draft Nevada's 2002 303(d) Impaired Waters List is available for review at the Bureau of Water Quality Planning (Room 105), 333 West Nye Lane in Carson City and in Las Vegas at the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, 1771 East Flamingo Road, Suite 121A. Copies of the above mentioned documents can also be obtained from NDEP's website at <http://ndep.state.nv.us> (see What's New).

Following the workshops, the proposed water quality standards and revisions will be considered for adoption by the State Environmental Commission at a public hearing. The time and place of that hearing will be announced at a later date.

Members of the public who are disabled and require special accommodations or assistance at the meeting are requested to notify Karen Howard of the Bureau of Water Quality Planning in writing (see below for address) or by calling (775) 687-9444, at least 24 hours in advance.

For questions, comments or further information regarding the proposed revisions or new water quality standards please contact:

Paul Comba [(775) 687-9446] or Randy Pahl [(775) 687-9453]
Nevada Division of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Water Quality Planning
333 W. Nye Lane
Carson City, Nevada 89706
FAX: (775) 687-5856